

Urban San Diego

8.1.7



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8.1.7.a *Kelton (S 4)*

Site Description and Existing Conditions

Three vernal pools are located at Kelton (S 4), a 29.17-acre parcel located along I-94 south of Kelton Road. This parcel is bounded by SR-94 on the north and residential development on the south. The site is dedicated open space within the MHPA and is owned and managed by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department.

The vernal pools at Kelton (89.42 m² [.02 acres] basin area) are of natural origin, and occur within Huerhuero loam soils. Upland vegetation at the site is primarily disturbed coastal sage scrub/chamise chaparral and ruderal. No sensitive vernal pool species were observed at Kelton.

Residents of the surrounding developments utilize the site for outdoor recreation activities such as hiking and BMX biking; these activities appear to have contributed to the disturbed nature of the upland habitats. In addition, the vernal pools and their watersheds have been impacted to some extent by these activities.

Threats

Development

No development may occur on dedicated open space lands.

Invasive Species

Black mustard and other non-native species occur in the disturbed and ruderal areas.

Edge Effects

This open space area appears to be heavily utilized by residents of the adjacent neighborhoods. Jumps for BMX bicycles and wide, redundant pedestrian paths have denuded large areas of vegetation. In some cases, these areas are within or adjacent to vernal pools and their associated topography (i.e. Mima mounds). Litter was observed within the vernal pool basins and in upland vegetation.

Fire and Fire Suppression

Fire and fire suppression efforts may threaten the vernal pools, in particular due to the adjacent freeway (e.g. flammable litter such as cigarettes), topography, and nearby residential neighborhoods.

Current Management Activities

This site is managed by the Park and Recreation Department Open Space Division.

Management Recommendations

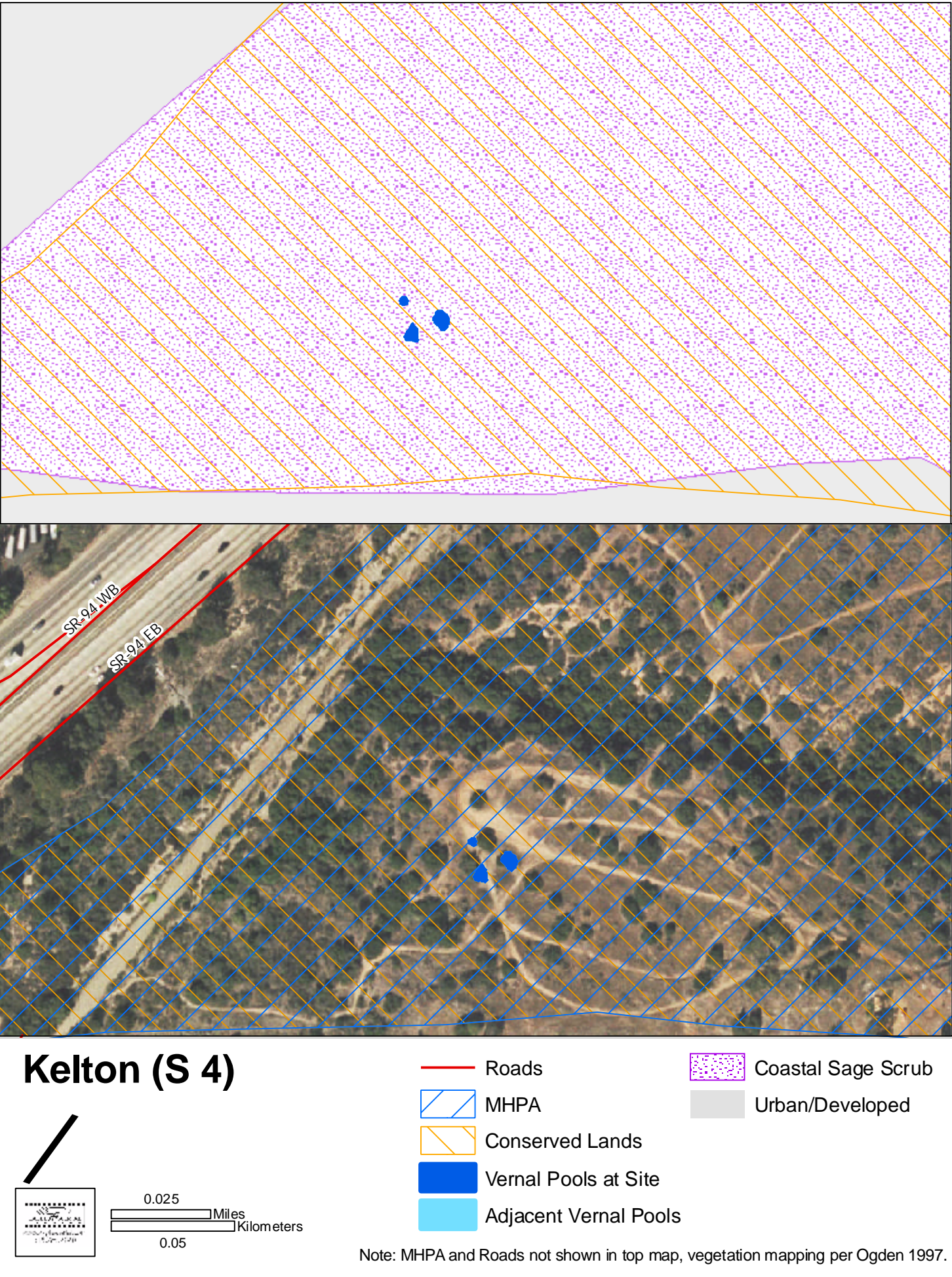
Land managers should encourage upland and vernal pool restoration by non-profit organizations (i.e. "Friends" groups) or as funding becomes available (i.e. grant opportunities). It is recommended that restoration include re-vegetation of uplands within vernal pool watersheds and introduction of sensitive vernal pool species, where appropriate.

As funding becomes available, signage containing information on the sensitive nature of on-site habitats and restricting usage of the site (i.e. no off-road vehicles) should be placed at major access points to the parcel. In accordance with the draft Trails Master Plan, fencing should be utilized to direct foot traffic away from the vernal pool basins and watersheds.

A qualified biologist shall assess the site for non-native, invasive species, and shall recommend and implement a removal plan, if necessary. Weeding within and immediately adjacent to vernal pools should be done by hand. In upland areas, mechanical removal may be necessary; however, herbicides should not be used in or adjacent to vernal pools.

A strategy to protect the vernal pools during fire suppression efforts should be developed in coordination with the City of San Diego Fire Department.

Figure 38



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8.1.7.b *Tecolote Canyon (O 2)*

Site Description and Existing Conditions

Tecolote Canyon (O 2) is a 950-acre open space park owned and managed by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. The park is located west of I-5 and north of Friars Road in Linda Vista, and is conserved, zoned Open Space within the MHPA. Surrounding land uses include residential and transportation.

Nine vernal pools (147 m² [1582.295 ft²]) in total area) were mapped in two areas at Tecolote Canyon. The basins are natural, and occur in the Chesterton Urban complex and Hueruero loam. The upland vegetation is characterized by coastal sage scrub, southern mixed chaparral and ruderal vegetation. No sensitive plant species were observed, and the site has not been surveyed for fairy shrimp.

Prior to establishment of the park, the area was used for livestock grazing. The park is now utilized for passive recreation, and official trails limit impacts to natural resources.

Threats

Invasive Species

Vegetation species at Tecolote Canyon are primarily native; however, some non-native grasses occur.

Trespass

The public is allowed limited, non-motorized access to Tecolote Canyon.

Fire/Fire Suppression

Tecolote Canyon is located in an urban area surrounded by residential development. In the unlikely event of a fire in this location, impacts may occur from fire suppression activities.

Current Management Activities

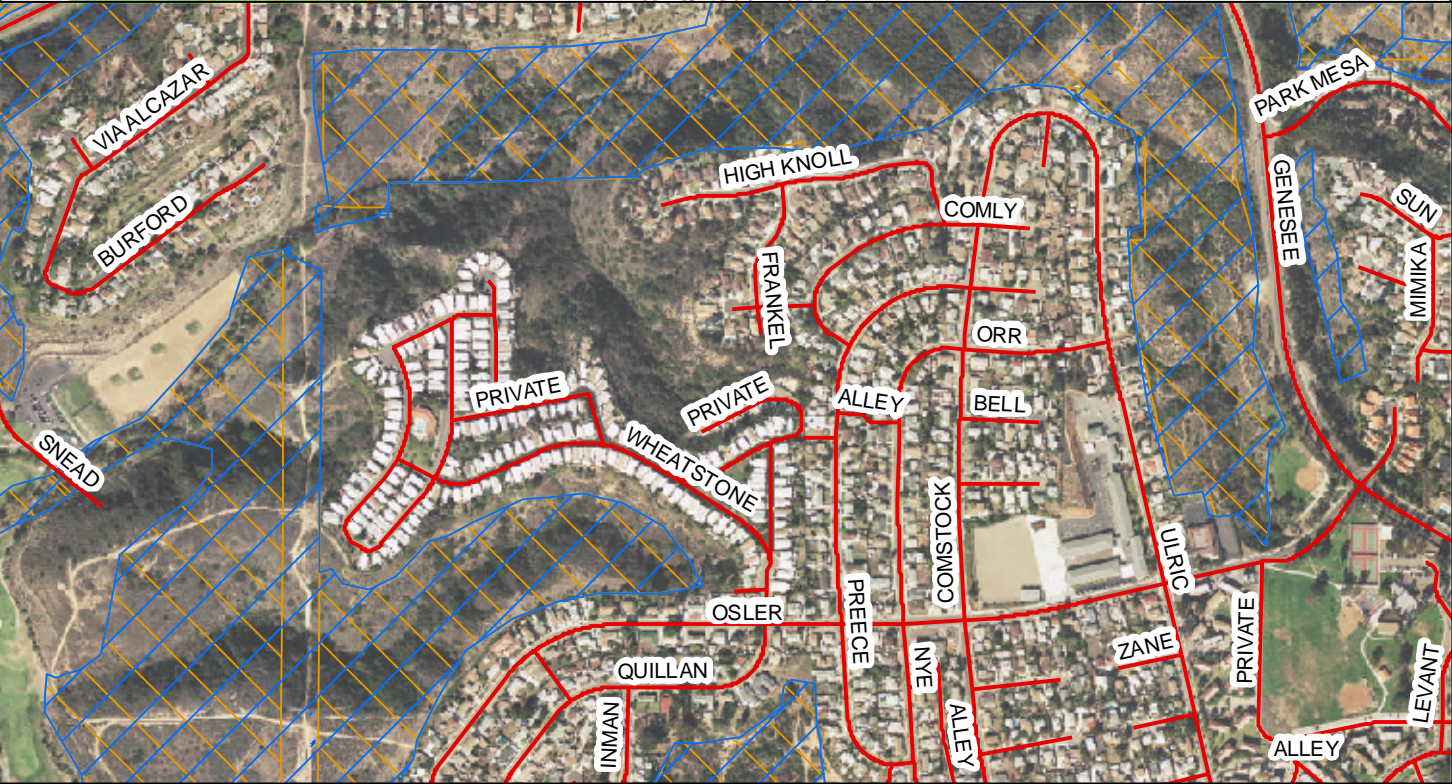
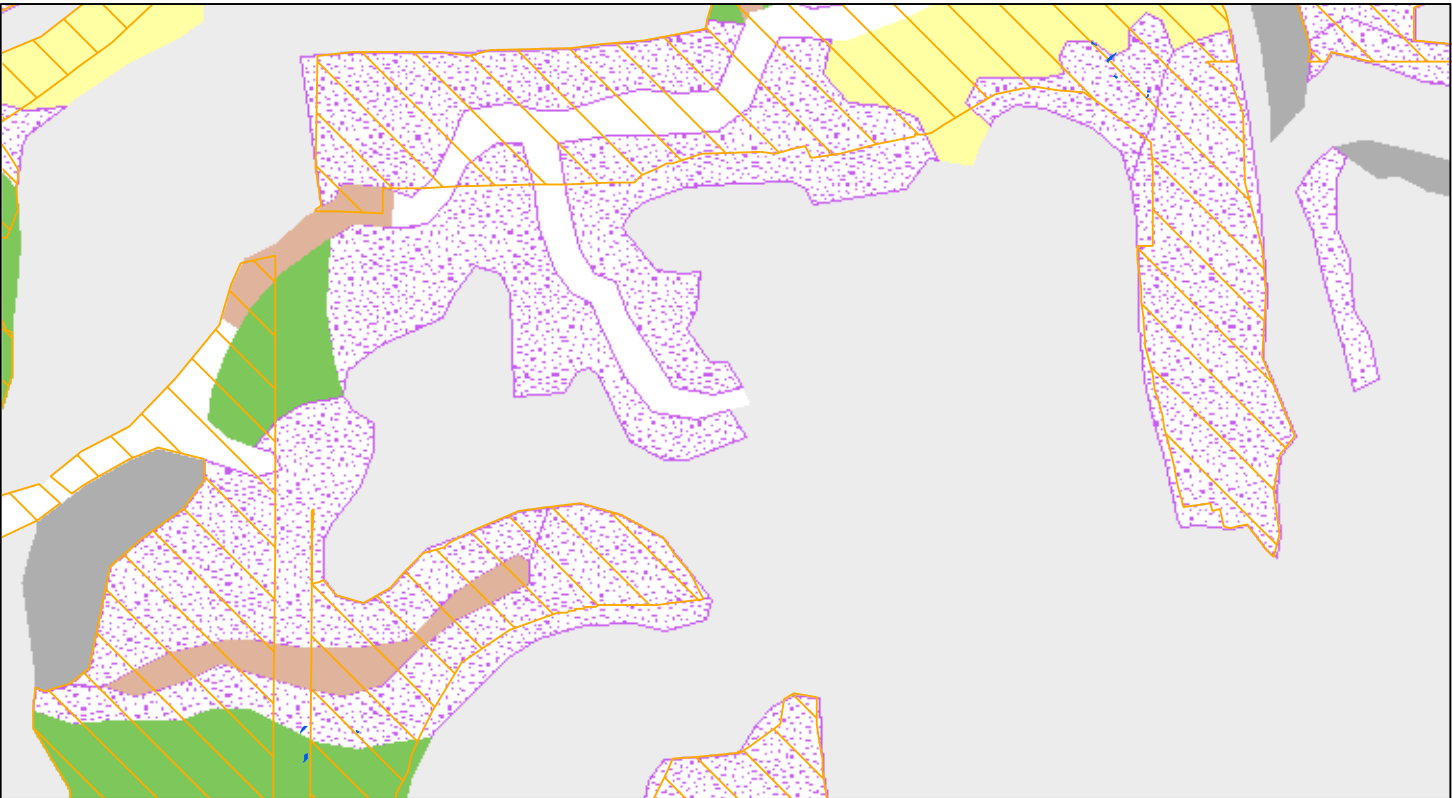
The site is managed by rangers and other staff of the Park and Recreation Department. Management activities include installation and maintenance of trails and barriers, and enforcement of park regulations.

Management Recommendations

Seek funding for vernal pool restoration projects, including fencing and interpretive signage. Interpretive signs should be installed to increase public awareness of vernal pools.

Educational nature hikes including the vernal pool areas would provide an excellent opportunity for public outreach.

Figure 39



Tecolote Canyon (O 2)



- Roads
- MHPA
- Conserved Lands
- Vernal Pools at Site
- Adjacent Vernal Pools
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Chaparral
- Grassland
- Riparian Scrub
- Disturbed Land
- Urban/Developed

Note: MHPA and Roads not shown in top map; vegetation mapping per Ogden 1997.